

Award Number: DAMD17-01-1-0589

TITLE: The Effect of COX-2 Inhibitors on the Aromatase
Gene Expression in Human Breast Cancer

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REPORT DATE: June 2003

TYPE OF REPORT: Annual

PREPARED FOR: U.S. Army Medical Research and Materiel Command
Fort Detrick, Maryland 21702-5012

DISTRIBUTION STATEMENT: Approved for Public Release;
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20031126 010

REPORT DOCUMENTATION PAGEForm Approved
OMB No. 074-0188

Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 1 hour per response, including the time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing this collection of information. Send comments regarding this burden estimate or any other aspect of this collection of information, including suggestions for reducing this burden to Washington Headquarters Services, Directorate for Information Operations and Reports, 1215 Jefferson Davis Highway, Suite 1204, Arlington, VA 22202-4302, and to the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reduction Project (0704-0188), Washington, DC 20503

1. AGENCY USE ONLY
(Leave blank)**2. REPORT DATE**
June 2003**3. REPORT TYPE AND DATES COVERED**
Annual 1 Jun 02 - 31 May 03)**4. TITLE AND SUBTITLE**The Effect of COX-2 Inhibitors on the Aromatase
Gene Expression in Human Breast Cancer**5. FUNDING NUMBERS**

DAMD17-01-1-0589

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**8. PERFORMING ORGANIZATION
REPORT NUMBER****9. SPONSORING / MONITORING
AGENCY NAME(S) AND ADDRESS(ES)**U.S. Army Medical Research and Materiel Command
Fort Detrick, Maryland 21702-5012**10. SPONSORING / MONITORING
AGENCY REPORT NUMBER****11. SUPPLEMENTARY NOTES****12a. DISTRIBUTION / AVAILABILITY STATEMENT**

Approved for Public Release; Distribution Unlimited

12b. DISTRIBUTION CODE**13. ABSTRACT (Maximum 200 Words)**

Aromatase (CYP-19) is responsible for estrogen biosynthesis within breast tumor tissue. Aromatase and cyclooxygenase-2 (COX-2) are both overexpressed in human breast cancer, and increased levels of prostaglandin (PG) activates the CYP19 promotor and increases gene expression. We hypothesize that celecoxib, a selective COX-2 inhibitor, will decrease PG, decrease the expression of CYP19, and reduce estrogen biosynthesis within tumor tissue. To test this hypothesis, in DOD grant # DAMD17-01-1-0589, tumor tissue will be collected from breast cancer patients at the initial diagnosis, and again at the definitive surgery (lumpectomy or mastectomy) for breast cancer. In the 10-14 day interval before the definitive surgery, patients will receive celecoxib and tissue samples collected before and after treatment with celecoxib will be evaluated for gene expression of COX-2 and CYP19. If our hypothesis is correct, then expression of the CYP19 gene will decrease in response to celecoxib. This study will provide preliminary data to a) support a mechanism whereby COX-2 inhibitors decrease estrogen production within breast tumors by decreasing CYP19 expression; and b) provide the rationale for initiating larger chemoprevention and therapeutic trials of COX-2 inhibitors in high risk and breast cancer patients.

14. SUBJECT TERMS**15. NUMBER OF PAGES**

4

16. PRICE CODE**17. SECURITY CLASSIFICATION
OF REPORT**

Unclassified

**18. SECURITY CLASSIFICATION
OF THIS PAGE**

Unclassified

**19. SECURITY CLASSIFICATION
OF ABSTRACT**

Unclassified

20. LIMITATION OF ABSTRACT

Unlimited

NSN 7540-01-280-5500

Standard Form 298 (Rev. 2-89)
Prescribed by ANSI Std. Z39-18
298-102

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INTRODUCTION

This study will test the hypothesis that celecoxib, a selective Cox-2 inhibitor, will decrease PG, decrease the expression of CYP19, and reduce estrogen biosynthesis within tumor tissue. The primary objective of the study is to evaluate Aromatase (CYP19) and estrogen receptor (ER) gene expression by reverse-transcriptase polymerase chain reaction (RT-PCR) in response to a selective cyclooxygenase-2 (COX-2) inhibitor, celecoxib, in paired tumor tissue collected at the time of the initial diagnosis and at the time of definitive surgery for localized, non-metastatic breast cancer patients. The secondary objective is to evaluate the effect of celecoxib on the following biomarkers: estrogen receptor, progesterone receptor, Her-2/neu, Ki-67, COX-1, COX-2, CYP19, CD31, and PGE2, and Aromatase activity in paired tissue specimens by standard immunohistochemical methods. The study has been approved by both The Ohio State University IRB and the Army. In total, 34 subjects will be enrolled on the study. We anticipate that all 34 patients will be enrolled by May 31, 2004. The Army approved an extension to the performance period in March 2003. The performance period is now June 1, 2001 - June 30, 2004 (research to be completed by May 31, 2004).

BODY

Study staff began to screen for potential subjects in May 2003. As of May 31, 2003, no subjects were enrolled on the study.

KEY RESEARCH ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Not applicable. No patients have been enrolled on the study.

REPORTABLE OUTCOMES

Not applicable. No patients have been enrolled on the study.

CONCLUSIONS

Not applicable. No patients have been enrolled on the study.

REFERENCES

Not applicable. No patients have been enrolled on the study.

APPENDICES

Not applicable. No patients have been enrolled on the study.